

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A printing method for printing an optically readable dot code on a printing medium with printing plates, said method comprising:

a first step of printing said code on said printing medium,  
5 using a first printing plate and a first ink; and

a second step, performed immediately after the first step,  
of forming ~~a~~ an ink code coat completely covering said code on  
said printing medium by printing, using a second printing plate  
and a second ink having a property of not affecting the operation  
10 of reading said code.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein  
said first ink has a property of absorbing light irradiating  
said code and coming from a lighting section of a reading device  
for optically reading said code; and

5 said second ink has a property of reflecting light coming  
from said lighting section.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2,  
wherein, if the light coming from said lighting section is red  
light, said first ink is one of black ink and cyan ink, and said  
second ink is one of magenta ink and yellow ink.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said second ink has a property of being transparent relative to visible light.

Claim 5 (Canceled).

6. (Currently Amended) A printing method for printing an optically readable dot code on a printing medium with printing plates, said method comprising:

5 a first step of printing said code on said printing medium, using a first printing plate and a first ink; and

a second step, performed immediately after the first step, of forming ~~a~~ an ink code coat completely covering said code on said printing medium by printing, using a second printing plate and a second ink having a property of not affecting the operation  
10 of reading said code, the second ink over an area larger than an area of said code.